

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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71

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /088 W
----- 017561

R 271446Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 872

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3458

POUCHED INFO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US

SUBJ: CANADIAN REACTION TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862

1. CANADIAN REACTION TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT HAS BEEN MATTER-OF-FACT AND CONDEMNATORY OF NORTH KOREAN ACTION. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL CANADIAN REACTION, BUT EMBASSY WOULD REASONABLY ASSUME THAT GOC, IF ASKED, WOULD EXPRESS HORROR AND UNHAPPINESS OVER INCIDENT.

2. PRESS REACTION HAS FOLLOWED SUCH LINES. OTTAWA CITIZEN PUBLISHED STRAIGHTFORWARD EDITORIAL WHICH DESCRIBED INCIDENT AS "REPLUSIVE". OTTAWA JOURNAL ALSO CATEGORIZED IT AS A "BRUTAL DEED", BUT WENT ON TO SAY IT "CAN BE REGARDED AS A SYMPTOM, NOT A CAUSE, OF AMERICAN-NORTH KOREAN RIVALRY AND HATRED". EDITORIAL THEN FOCUSSED ON US WARNINGS THAT TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE USED IF CONVENTIONAL FORCE FAILED TO HALT SERIOUS AGRESSION IN "VITAL PARTS" OF THE WORLD. EDITORIAL ENDED BY SAYING "WAR AS A RESULT OF THIS....INCIDENT DOES NOT SEEM PROBABLE. NOTHING MUST BE ALLOWED TO MAKE IT EVEN REMOTELY POSSIBLE."

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3. INFLUENTIAL TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL ALSO CARRIED

EDITORIAL ENTITLED "KOREA'S TOUCH BORDER." IT DESCRIBED TENSION WHICH ALWAYS HAS EXISTED ALONG BORDER, AND THEN SAID "WHETHER THE KILLING OF THE TWO AMERICANS WAS DELIBERATE OR AN UNINTENDED OUTCOME OF AN ACT OF HARRASSMENT THAT GOT OUT OF HAND, IS STILL NOT CLEAR...IF THE ULTIMATE AIM WAS TO GET THE AMERICAN TROOPS WITHDRAWN, THE STRATEGY MAY HAVE BACKFIRED." EDITORIAL REPORTED US INTEREST IN WITHDRAWAL, PUT POINTED OUT THAT "...BY THE KILLING OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS...(NORTH KOREA) MAY NOW HAVE PUT A POLITICAL ROADBLOCK IN THE WAY OF ANY SUCH PULL-OUT."

4. GOC OFFICIALS HAVE NOT COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS RE INCIDENT AND PER INSTRUCTIONS, WE HAVE NOT ASKED. HOWEVER, AS STATED ABOVE, WE CAN REASONABLY ASSUME GOC WOULD ANALYSE SITUATION SIMILARLY TO NEWSPAPERS; I.E. SEVERELY DEPLORE INCIDENT, THEN ASK REAL POLITICAL MOTIVATION FOR IT.
DUEMLING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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